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SUPERGIRL
IN ACTION COMICS
Welcome to
Smallville
THE TOWN WHERE
BIG THINGS HAPPEN!
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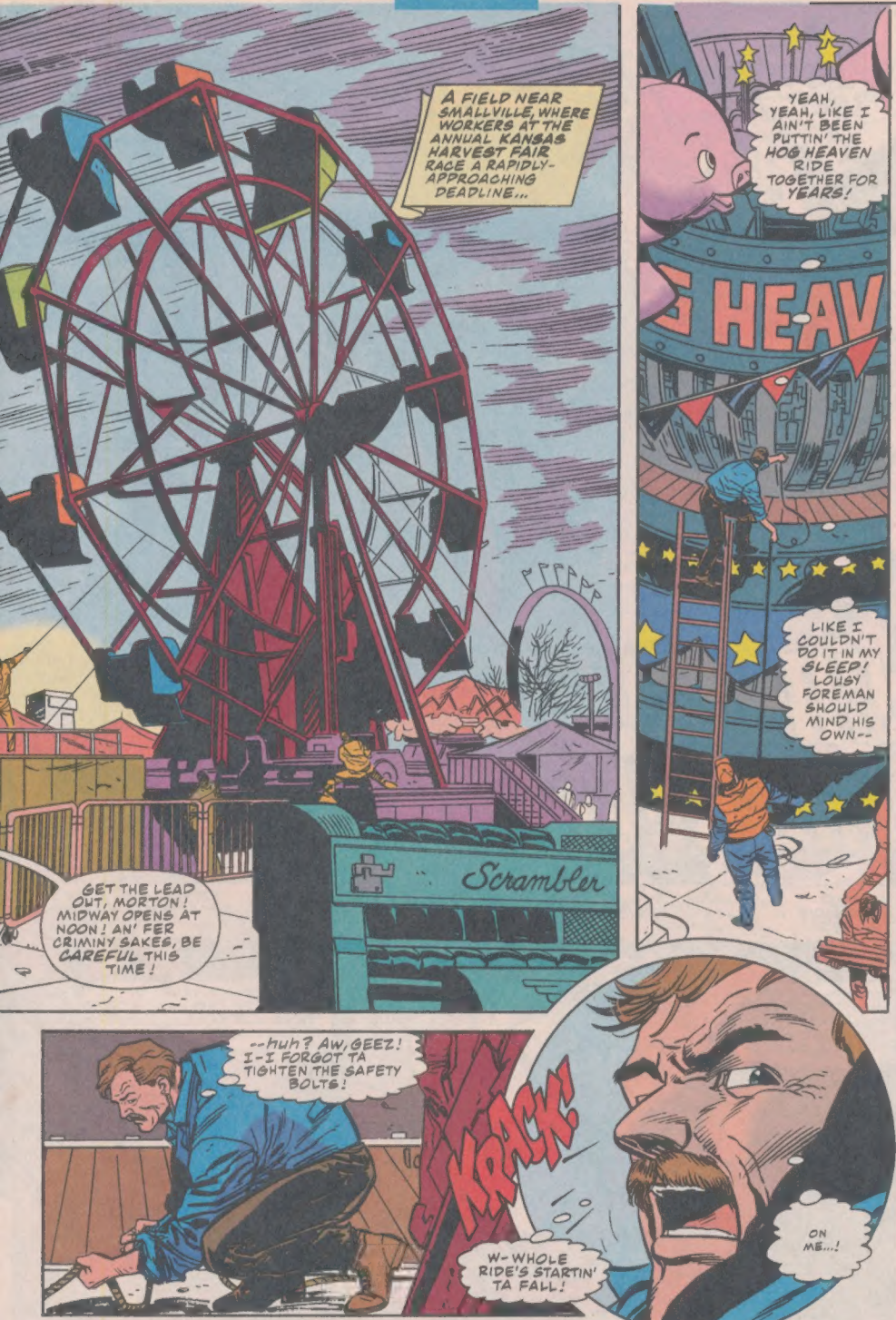
A FIELD NEAR SMALLVILLE, WHERE WORKERS AT THE ANNUAL KANSAS HARVEST FAIR RACE A RAPIDLY-APPROACHING DEADLINE...
GET THE LEAD OUT, MORTON! MIDWAY OPENS AT NOON! AN' FER CRIMINY SAKES, BE CAREFUL THIS TIME!
Scrambler
YEAH, YEAH, LIKE I AIN'T BEEN PUTTIN' THE HOG HEAVEN RIDE TOGETHER FOR YEARS!
LIKE I COULDN'T DO IT IN MY SLEEP! LOUSY FOREMAN SHOULD MIND HIS OWN--
--huh? AW, GEEZ! I-I FORGOT TA TIGHTEN THE SAFETY BOLTS!
KRACK!
W-WHOLE RIDE'S STARTIN' TA FALL!
ON ME...!

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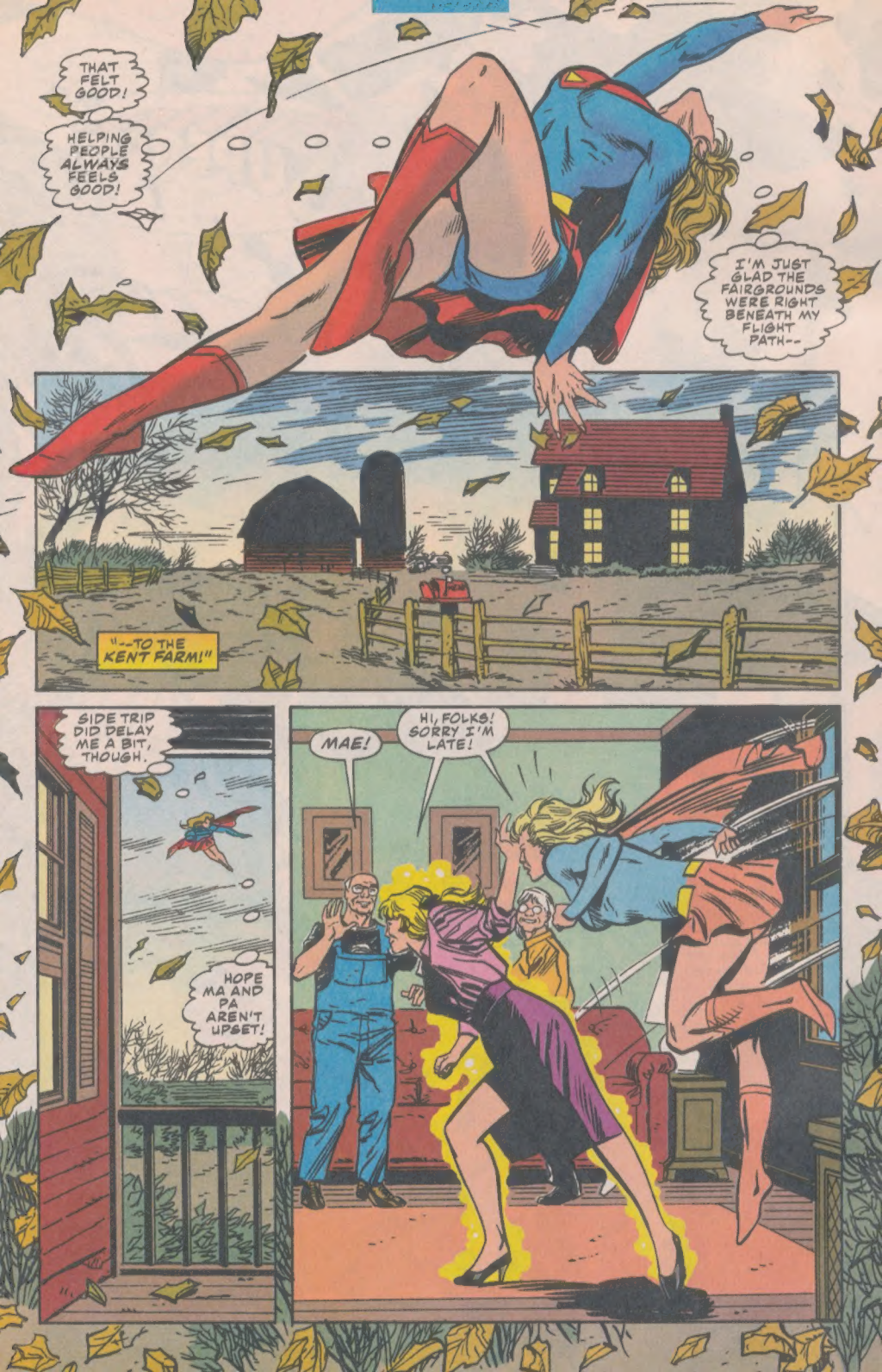
DON'T WORRY--YOU'RE NOT GOING TO "HOG HEAVEN" TODAY!
SUPERGIRL...!
SAVED BY THE BELLE!
DAVID MICHELINIE • WRITER
JACKSON GUICE & DENIS RODIER • ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY • LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE • COLORIST
CHRIS DUFFY • ASSISTANT ED.
FRANK PITTARESE • ASSOCIATE ED.
MIKE CARLIN • EDITOR
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
hmmm, SUPERMAN WOULD PROBABLY WELD THESE BEAMS TOGETHER WITH HEAT VISION--
--BUT I DON'T HAVE HEAT VISION!
ON THE OTHER HAND, I'VE GOT A FEW TRICKS CLARK DOESN'T HAVE!
FOR INSTANCE...
...THE ABILITY TO RESHAPE MOLECULES!
THAT SHOULD HOLD 'TIL YOU CAN MAKE PERMANENT REPAIRS, GUYS!
'BYE!
WOW! RESCUED BY SUPERGIRL! THIS HAS GOTTA BE THE BEST DAY O' MY LIFE!
MORTY?
YER FIRED.


THAT FELT GOOD!
HELPING PEOPLE ALWAYS FEELS GOOD!
I'M JUST GLAD THE FAIRGROUNDS WERE RIGHT BENEATH MY FLIGHT PATH--
"--TO THE KENT FARM!"
SIDE TRIP DID DELAY ME A BIT, THOUGH.
HOPE MA AND PA AREN'T UPSET!
MAE!
HI, FOLKS! SORRY I'M LATE!

JEAN-CLAUDE
VAN DAMME
RAUL
JULIA
STREET FIGHTER
COMING DECEMBER TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU

THIS IS THE PRICE OF FAILURE.

The stakes are high.
And your crew is one bunch of
hard-core head cases.
Altogether, the odds stink.
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There aren't any.
See you in the RED ZONE.

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16 megs of rugged adventure and non-stop action with smooth animation and full-screen movie sequences.

WIN A CHANCE TO BE IN A MUSIC VIDEO!
See Package for Details

Body count: in the radicals' maze-like bunkers, it's muzzle-to-muzzle.

Your Apache's got it all: radar, auto night tracking and the devil's own firepower.

- A chopper assault through a storm of fire and an underground blast-fest.
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- Fully rotating 3-D world, animated at 30 frames per second. Two above and 10 underground environments.

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MA-13
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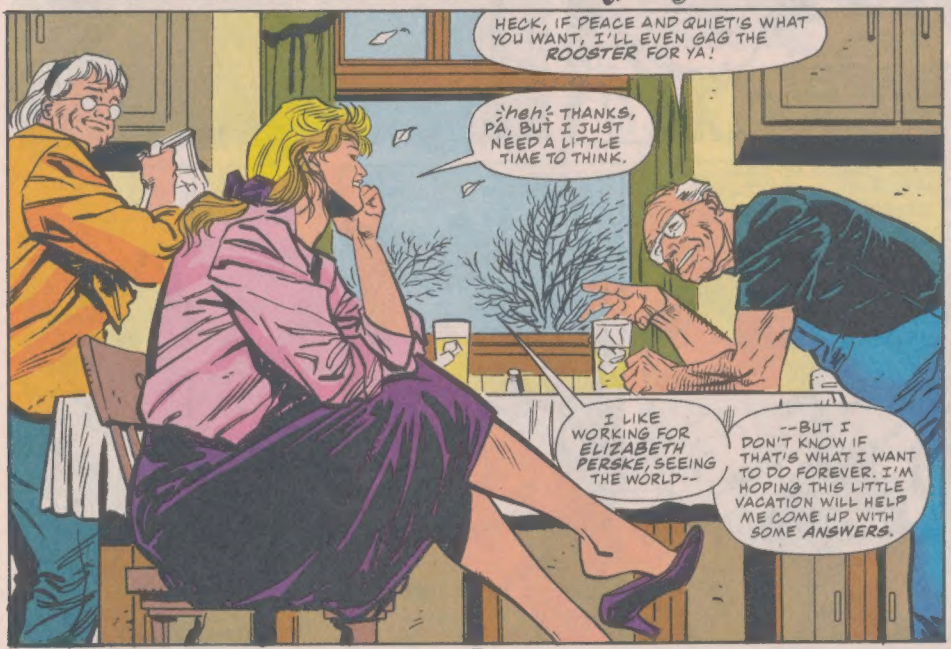
General Audiences

DON'T BE SILLY, CHILD! WE'RE JUST HAPPY YOU HAVE TIME TO VISIT AT ALL!
HEY, DON'T I GET A HUG?

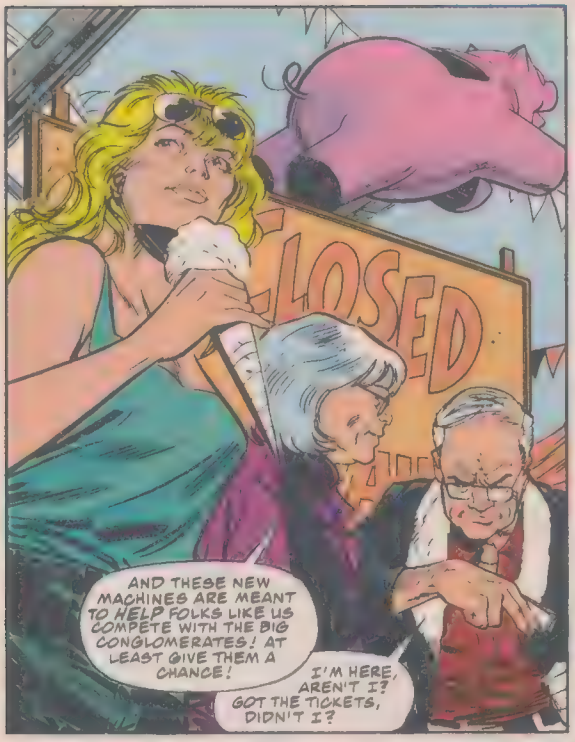
ANYTIME.
ANYWHERE.

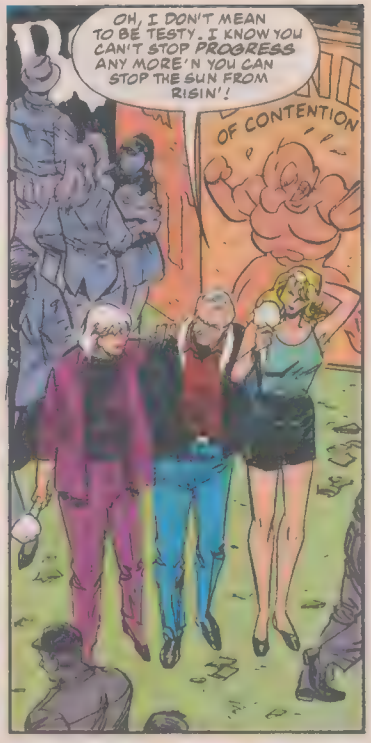
YOU JUST SIT YOURSELF DOWN, MAE. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME LEMONADE?
I'M AFRAID WE DON'T HAVE ANY-THING MORE EXCITING.
EXCITEMENT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE, MA.


HECK, IF PEACE AND QUIET'S WHAT YOU WANT, I'LL EVEN GAG THE ROOSTER FOR YA!
:heh: THANKS, PA, BUT I JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME TO THINK.
I LIKE WORKING FOR ELIZABETH PERSKE, SEEING THE WORLD--
--BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO DO FOREVER. I'M HOPING THIS LITTLE VACATION WILL HELP ME COME UP WITH SOME ANSWERS.

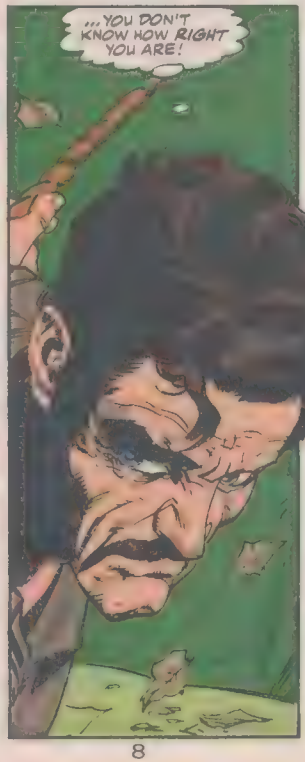
METROPOLIS.
ANYONE SEEN KENT?
TRY THE CITY ROOM, DANA.
Janke
Shop-Rite
CLARK? FAX FOR YOU.
DAILY PLANET
CITY ROOM
MORE ON YOUR MYSTERIOUS BHUTRANIAN PRINCE.
SAVITAR BANDU? THANKS! I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS INTERVIEW!
I'M AFRAID IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT!
I'M CHANGING YOUR ASSIGNMENT, SENDING YOU OUT TO SMALLVILLE!
WHY?
THEY'RE INTRODUCING SOME NEW INVENTIONS AT A FAIR THERE, AND I FIGURE YOUR HOMETOWN ANGLE COULD GIVE THE STORY A UNIQUE SLANT.
PERRY? YOU WANTED TO PROOFREAD THIS BEFORE IT WENT OUT?
OH, RIGHT! 'SCUSE ME A MINUTE, CLARK!
OOOO, FARM MACHINERY!
DO I SMELL A PULITZER?
CUTE, LOIS. AND WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
NOTHING MUCH-- THE MURDER OF THAT D.A.S.H. SALES AGENT.
COULD BE A SERIAL KILLING.
TWO COLUMNS ON PAGE ONE.
WELL, FOR ME, THIS NEW ASSIGNMENT IS A BLESSING, AFTER--
}Ahem?
--BRAINIAC'S REVENGE PLOT!
I CAN FLY TO SMALLVILLE IN MINUTES. USE THE EXTRA TIME TO RELAX WITH MA AND PA!

READY, CLARK? I'LL HAVE SID CALL US A CAB.
UH..."US"?
DIDN'T I MENTION? IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN IN THE FIELD, FELT THE RUSH OF PRINTER'S INK IN MY VEINS.
SO I'M GOING WITH YOU!
WHAT?! B-BUT PERRY--! I MEAN, CAN YOU SPARE THE TIME?
WITH MODERN JETLINERS, WE'LL BE IN SMALLVILLE IN A MATTER OF HOURS!
:GULP!: H-HOURS?
YEAH! ISN'T TECHNOLOGY WONDERFUL?
KANSAS.
TECHNOLOGY STINKS!
PAAAA--!
WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE IS THAT?
MAE'S RIGHT, JONATHAN.
BEING AN INDEPENDENT FARMER GETS TOUGHER EVERY YEAR!
NOW APPEARING:
AGRO-WOND
FOR THE FUTURE FARMER


LOSED
AND THESE NEW MACHINES ARE MEANT TO HELP FOLKS LIKE US COMPETE WITH THE BIG CONGLOMERATES! AT LEAST GIVE THEM A CHANCE!
I'M HERE, AREN'T I? GOT THE TICKETS, DIDN'T I?


OH, I DON'T MEAN TO BE TESTY. I KNOW YOU CAN'T STOP PROGRESS ANY MORE'N YOU CAN STOP THE SUN FROM RISIN'!
OF CONTENTION

BUT I JUST DON'T TRUST TECHNOLOGY. SEEMS NO MATTER HOW CAREFUL YOU ARE, SOMETHIN' ALWAYS GOES WRONG!
MISTER...


...YOU DON'T KNOW HOW RIGHT YOU ARE!

METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.
MAGAZINE, SIR?

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NOT FOR ME-- I'LL JUST NAP.
WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?
HOW ABOUT NEWSTIME? YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN WHO STAYS ON TOP OF THINGS.
SOLD!
Y'KNOW, I THINK THAT YOUNG LADY WAS FLIRTING WITH ME
NEWSTIME
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE OFFICE MORE!
Hmm, LOOK AT THIS COVER STORY
"THE AMERICAN WORKER IN CRISIS."
SAY, DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I COVERED THE STEEL WORKER STRIKE IN PITTSBURGH?
WHY, NO, PERRY, YOU DIDN'T.
IT WAS DURING THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. I WAS A REPORTER IN MY PRIME, FULL OF SPIT AND VINEGAR...
GOSH--
--AND I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A LONG FLIGHT--!

STRYKER'S ISLAND.
YOU'RE GONNA BE HERE A LONG TIME, BRAVERMAN--
--AN' I'M GONNA ENJOY WATCHIN' THE YEARS ROT YOU AWAY!
BEEZ, CARTER, MONITORING THESE SHIELDED SCANS IS TEDIOUS ENOUGH--
--WITHOUT LISTENING TO YOU BADGER THE PRISONER ALL THE TIME!
CAN'T HELP IT, DOC. ONE O' THE PERKS O' BEIN' A GUARD HERE IS WATCHIN' B.G SNOTS GET CUT DOWN TO SIZE!
AN' RIGHT NOW, MR. CONDUIT THERE LOOKS TO BE ABOUT THREE-FOOT-TWO!
CARTER--!
THAT'S OKAY, DOCTOR. I'M AWARE OF MY FATE.
A FATE--
--THAT WILL BE EXACTLY WHAT I MAKE IT!
Alpha Scan 37%
Residual Nitrogen 24%

THE HARVEST FAIR.
THEY MADE ME DO THIS!
I WORKED FOR AGRO-INNOVATIONS FOR TWENTY YEARS, AND THEY'LL EARN MILLIONS FROM MACHINES BASED ON MY DESIGNS!
BUT BECAUSE OF A STUPID PIECE OF PAPER, SOME BLASTED WORK-FOR-HIRE CONTRACT--
--I'LL ONLY MAKE PENNIES!
BUT I'LL STILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH! BECAUSE WHAT THESE HANDS CREATED--
--THEY CAN ALSO DESTROY!
YOU'RE KIDDING!

YOU WERE IN MEMPHIS WHEN MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS SHOT?
YEP. FIRST PRINT REPORTER ON THE SCENE.
WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT?
SURE!
I-I MEAN, UM... IF YOU WANT TO TELL ME.
--HASN'T BEEN OFFICIALLY NAMED, BUT I'M TOLD THE RESEARCH BOYS CALL IT "OLD MACDONALD'S PORSCHE!"
HA HA HA!
I'M GONNA BE SICK.

WANTED

NEW SHERIFF

(Our last one died laughing.)

Poor fella had his funny bone tickled once too often. He shall be missed.

Hey, Homey! Er, make that... howdy pardner! We're looking for a real gunslinger out here in East Driftwood. Someone who can keep their shooting hand steady while they're bustin' a gut with laughter.

Because in Tin Star,™ it's the WACKY wild west. After all, the bad guys are dorky-looking robot dudes. Man, you'll want to pump 'em full of holes just so you won't have to look at 'em.

Black Bart and his Bad Oil Gang want to turn you into cattle feed. Hope your trigger finger's itchy.

Best of all, you can take 'em out with your Super NES Controller, Mouse™ or Super NES Super Scope.®

But make sure the Super NES is all spit-shined and ready, cuz you can't visit this one-horse town on any other system.

And keep your spurs off the sofa, dag-nabbit!

Only For SUPER NINTENDO

KIDS TO ADULTS
Animated Violence
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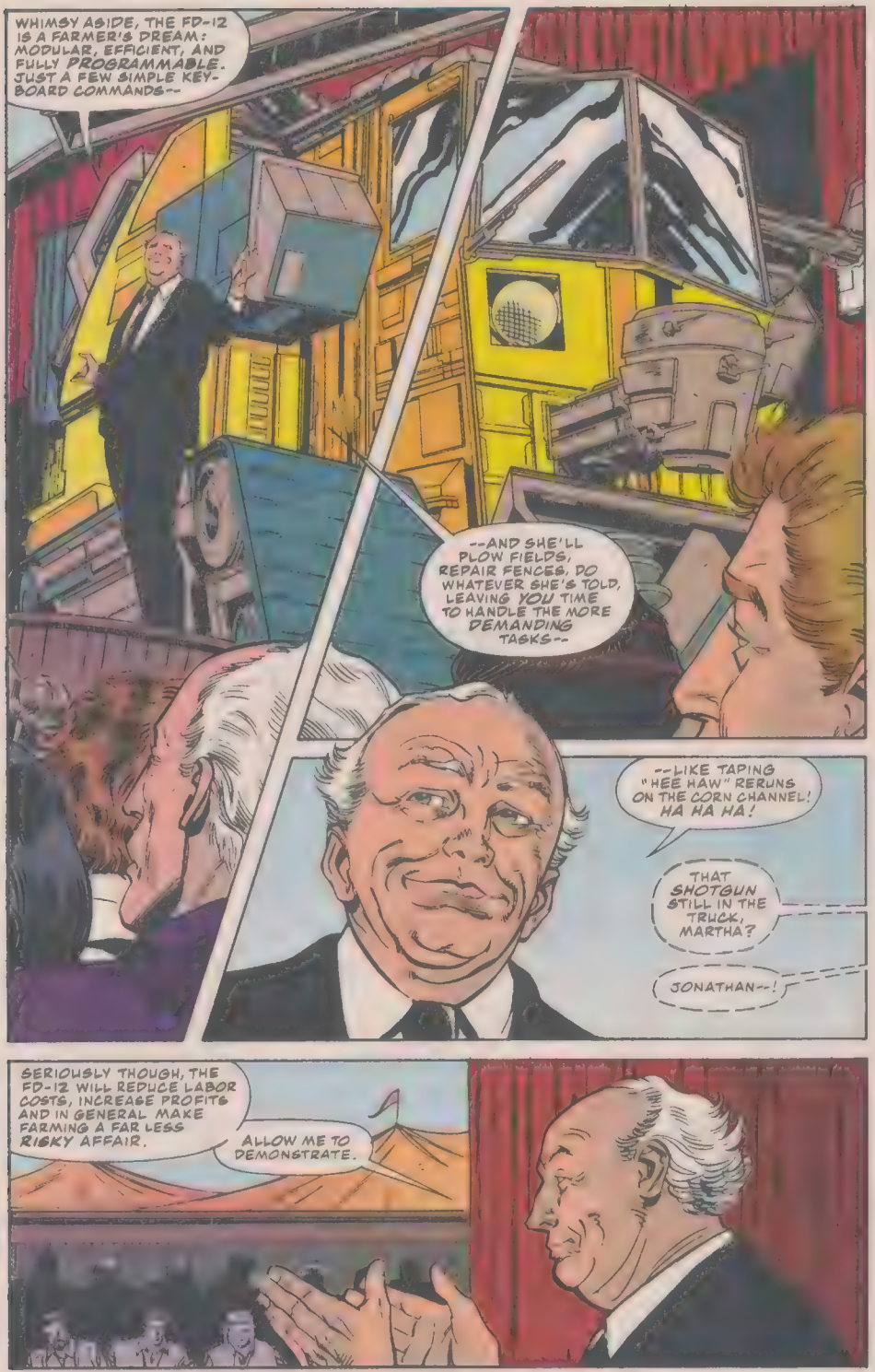
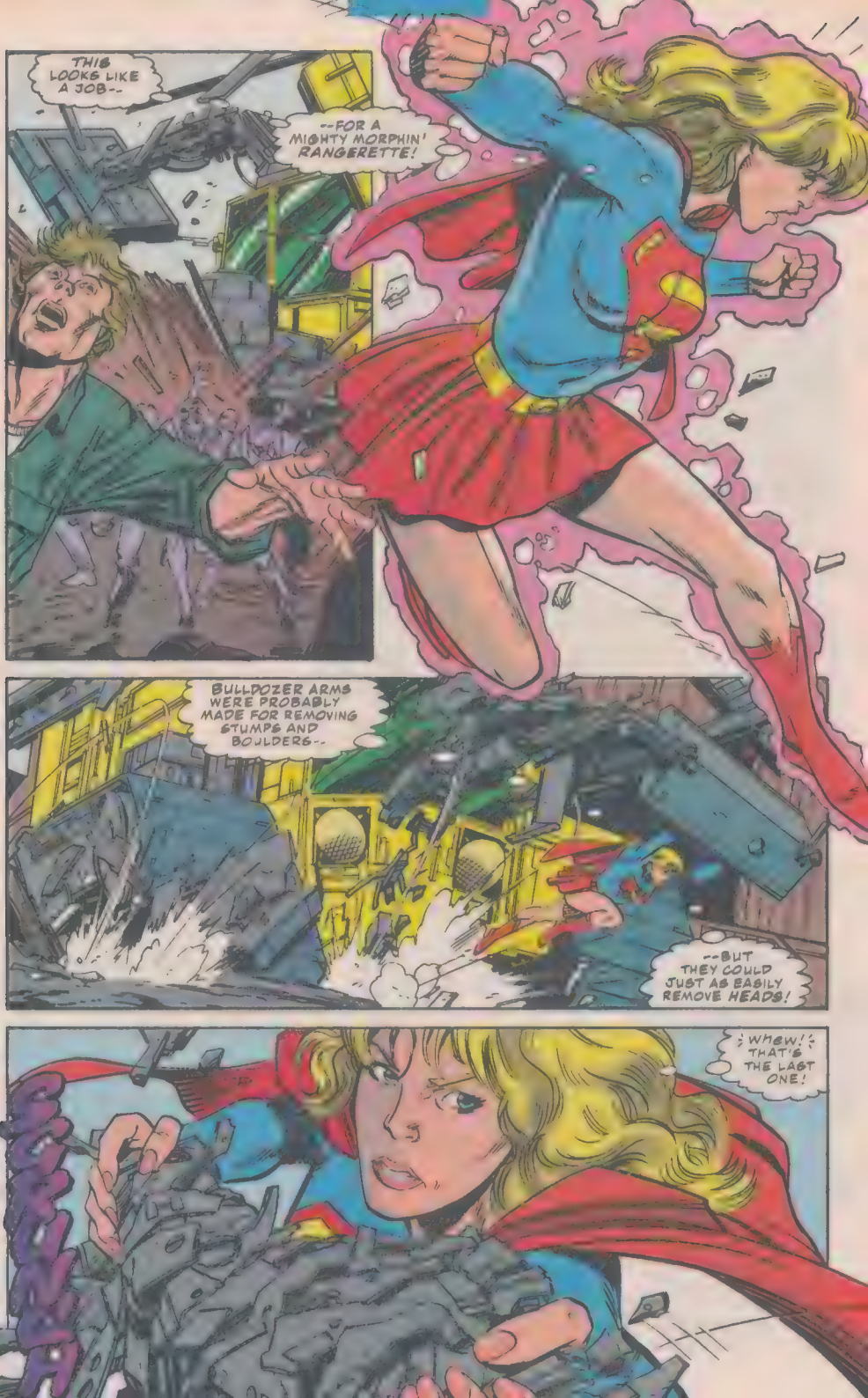

WHIMSY ASIDE, THE FD-12 IS A FARMER'S DREAM: MODULAR, EFFICIENT, AND FULLY PROGRAMMABLE. JUST A FEW SIMPLE KEY-BOARD COMMANDS--
--AND SHE'LL PLOW FIELDS, REPAIR FENCES, DO WHATEVER SHE'S TOLD, LEAVING YOU TIME TO HANDLE THE MORE DEMANDING TASKS--
--LIKE TAPING "HEE HAW" RERUNS ON THE CORN CHANNEL! HA HA HA!
THAT SHOTGUN STILL IN THE TRUCK, MARTHA?
JONATHAN--!
SERIOUSLY THOUGH, THE FD-12 WILL REDUCE LABOR COSTS, INCREASE PROFITS AND IN GENERAL MAKE FARMING A FAR LESS RISKY AFFAIR.
ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE.

WE'VE PROGRAMMED THE FD-12 TO SHOWCASE ITS IRRIGATION FUNCTION. NOTE HOW GENTLY THE WATER--
FWOOSH
--eh? PRESSURE INCREASING! N-NOZZLES JETTING LIKE FIRE HOSES!
IT'S LAWRENCE! THAT CRAZY SCIENTIST SWORE HE'D SABOTAGE THIS DEMONSTRATION!
SOMEONE CALL SECURITY!
NO TIME!
MA! PA! TAKE COVER!


THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB--
--FOR A MIGHTY MORPHIN' RANGERETTE!
BULLDOZER ARMS WERE PROBABLY MADE FOR REMOVING STUMPS AND BOULDERS--
--BUT THEY COULD JUST AS EASILY REMOVE HEADS!
WHEW! THAT'S THE LAST ONE!

Make the Direct Connection!

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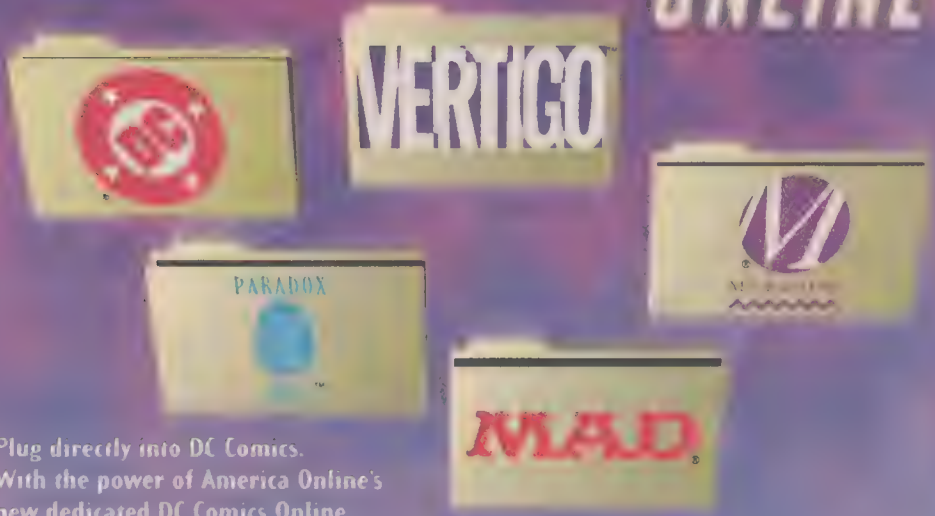

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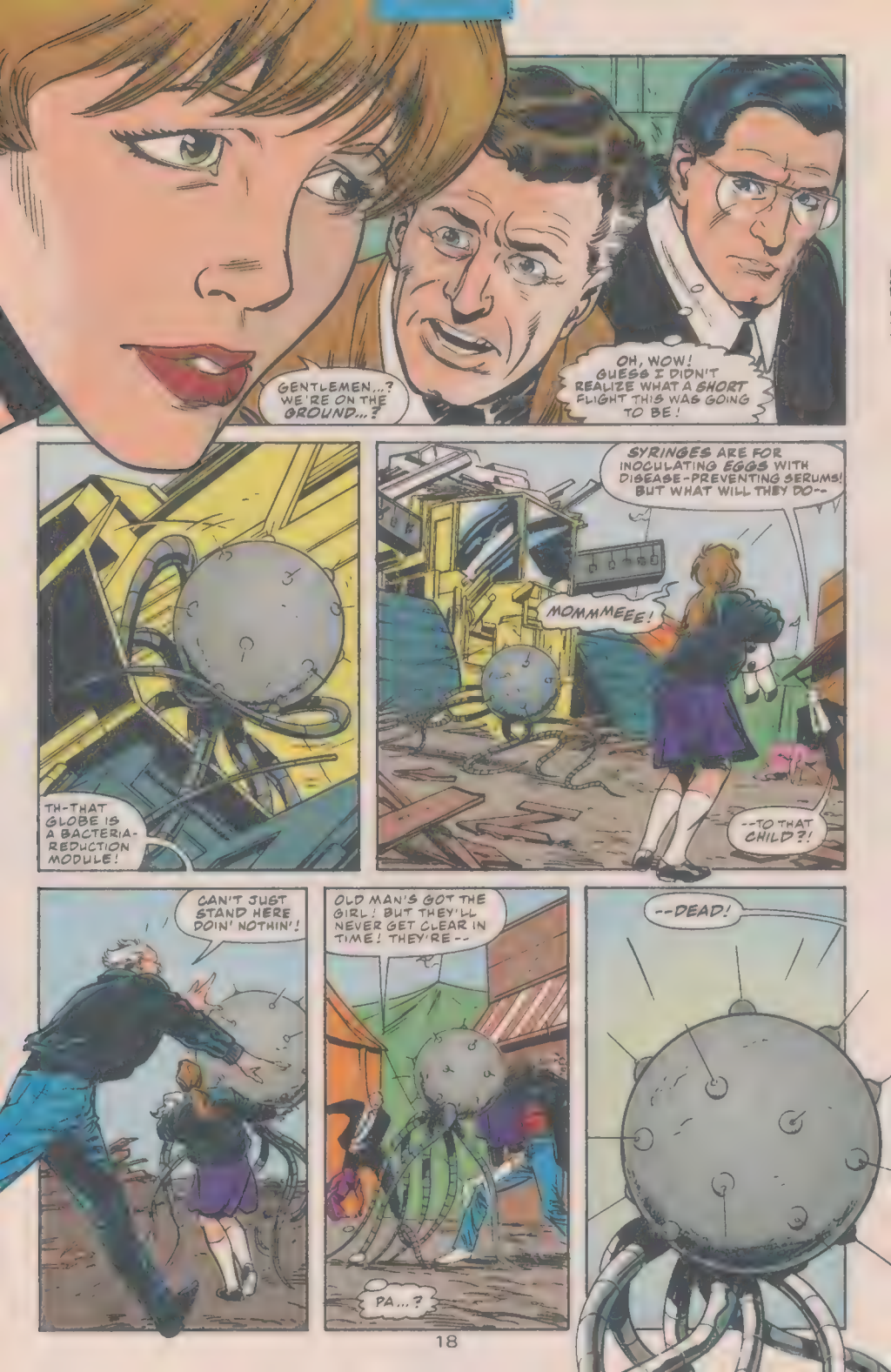
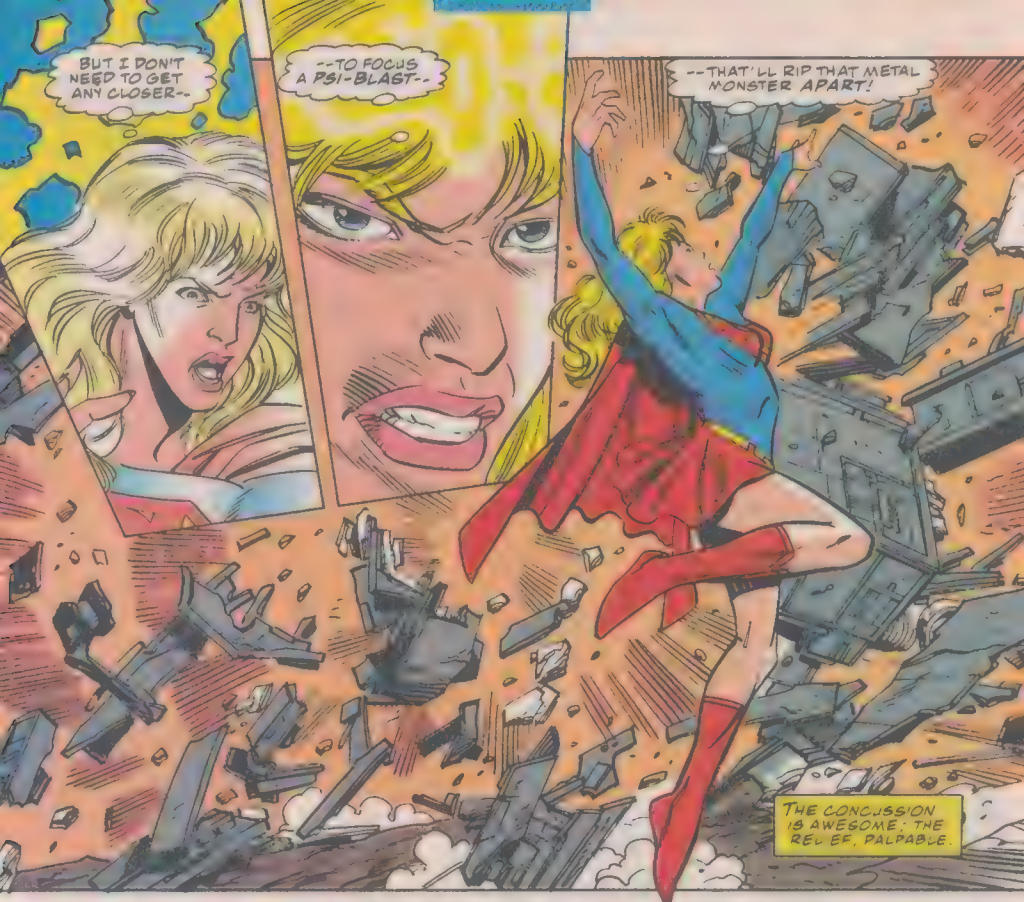
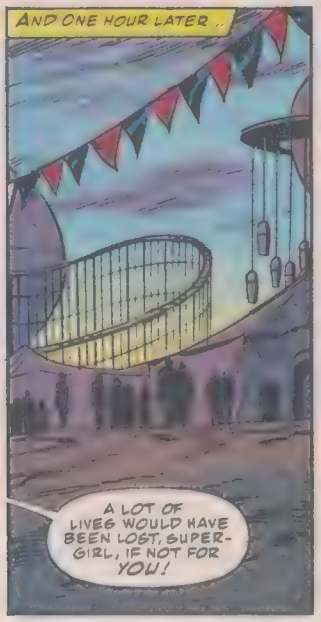
NOW TO SHUT DOWN THE SOURCE BEFORE--
--hnh? MORE NOZZLES! BUT WATER ISN'T GOING TO STOP M--
--EEEEEEE!
S-SOME KIND OF CHEMICALS!
MAKING ME--
--CHAAANGE!
MY GOD, THAT'S TETRAPHAZINE! BUT THE PEST CONTROL MODULE WASN'T EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE LOADED!

W-WHATEVER WAS IN THAT INSECTICIDE... CAUSED ME TO REVERT... TO PROTOPLASMIC FORM!
AND WHAT'S WORSE--
--I-I'M TOO WEAK... TO CHANGE BACK!
I'M... HELPLESS!
--I WAS CHOKING BACK TEARS EVEN AS I WAS CHEERING!
Ah, NOW THAT'S A STORY! YOU SEE--
;ahem;
KANSAS CITY.
I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF--
BUT PERRY, HOW'D YOU GET INTO N.A.S.A. CONTROL IN THE FIRST PLACE? I MEAN, THE APOLLO XI MOON LANDING--?!

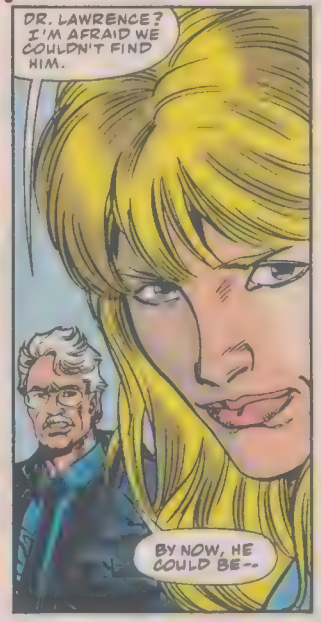

GENTLEMEN...? WE'RE ON THE GROUND...?
OH, WOW! GUESS I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT A SHORT FLIGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE!
TH-THAT GLOBE IS A BACTERIA-REDUCTION MODULE!
SYRINGES ARE FOR INOCULATING EGGS WITH DISEASE-PREVENTING SERUMS! BUT WHAT WILL THEY DO--
MOMMMEEE!
--TO THAT CHILD?!
CAN'T JUST STAND HERE DOIN' NOTHIN'!
OLD MAN'S GOT THE GIRL! BUT THEY'LL NEVER GET CLEAR IN TIME! THEY'RE--
PA...?
--DEAD!

NO! CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
CONCENTRATE! PULL IT TOGETHER!
DO IT!
NOW!
LEAVE... THEM...
...ALONE!
SCHSSS
FRICTION TURNED THE SPHERE INTO SLAG!
NOW THE MOTHER MACHINE'S TRYING TO BACK ME OFF WITH ELECTRICITY--
--THE HIGH-TECH EQUIVALENT OF CATTLE PRODS!


BUT I DON'T NEED TO GET ANY CLOSER--
--TO FOCUS A PSI-BLAST--
--THAT'LL RIP THAT METAL MONSTER APART!
THE CONCUSSION IS AWESOME: THE RELIEF, PALPABLE.

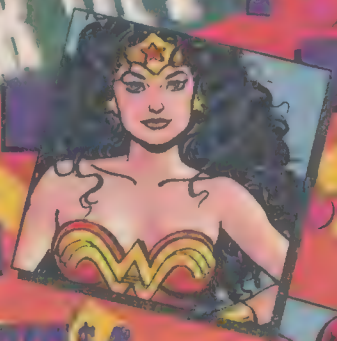

AND ONE HOUR LATER..
A LOT OF LIVES WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST, SUPERGIRL, IF NOT FOR YOU!

MY PLEASURE, OFFICER. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MAN YOU THINK WAS RESPONSIBLE?


DR. LAWRENCE? I'M AFRAID WE COULDN'T FIND HIM.
BY NOW, HE COULD BE--

"--ANYWHERE!"
NO, NO, NOT PURPLE--MAUVE!
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR PERRY'S SUITCASE FOR AN HOUR!
MIGHT AS WELL SIT DOWN, WATCH A LITTLE--
BAGGAGE CLAIM
713
--TV?
--DISASTER AT THE FAIR-GROUNDS!
THE SUSPECTED CULPRIT, DR. E.L. LAWRENCE, SHOWN HERE, IS STILL AT LARGE!
MAYBE. BUT THANKS TO MY X-RAY VISION--
EPARTURES
--NOT FOR LONG!
SUPER-WITCH RUINED EVERYTHING! BUT AT LEAST I GOT AWA--
NEWS
--OOOF!
SORRY, SIR.
YOUR FLIGHT'S BEEN CANCELLED!

START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT!



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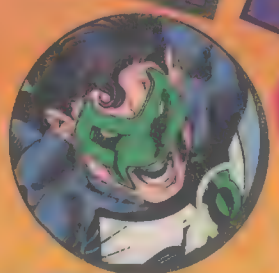

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EVENING: THE KENT FARM.
NEVER!
I HAVE NEVER HAD A BETTER MEAL!
THANKS AGAIN FOR INVITING ME!
IT WAS A GENUINE PLEASURE, MR. WHITE.
WHILE OUTSIDE...
CAN'T STAY LONGER, MAE?
WISH I COULD.
BUT I HAVE TO BE IN NORTH CAROLINA SOON* SO I'D BETTER GET STARTED.
THIS VISIT DID HELP ME REALIZE SOMETHING, THOUGH.
*SEE SHOWCASE 95 #142 TO FIND OUT WHY.
I'VE LET RESENTMENT AT BEING USED BY LEX LUTHOR CLOUD THE FACT THAT I DID A LOT OF GOOD AT LEXCORP
AND I'VE DECIDED I WANT TO KEEP DOING GOOD, BUT FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.
I'LL STAY WITH ELIZABETH 'TIL I SORT OUT THE DETAILS--
--BUT AT LEAST I'VE GOT A DIRECTION NOW.
HUH. MAYBE YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN.
MAYBE SOMETIMES--
--YOU SHOULD!

RE:ACTION

DC COMICS
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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Dear Editors:

Of my all-time list of favorite comic books from 1944 to the present, of 56 entries, 24 are from DC Comics or its predecessor.

I am pleased to say that ACTION COMICS #703 now joins this eclectic list. Thanks, guys, for making one for the Ages.

Monte O'Neal
Bloomington, IN

Honored, sir.

*****

Dear DC:

Re: ACTION COMICS #703

And the ZERO HOUR roller coaster ride continues! As a long-time DC reader who has fond memories of BRAVE AND THE BOLD #28, opening this book and seeing Starro brought back a lot of memories! Page 6: Hmm...judging by what happened to Perry, I'd better hurry this LoC before that time consumption reaches 1950! Page 9: Yeah, those sudden time shifts can be a real pain, eh, Supes! Ha! Shades of DETECTIVE COMICS #678, as Supes finds himself on a world where he "died as an infant!" Uh, in what issue did it happen that "Emmett Vale stole the Matrix Ship in my own world"? Page 18: Supes using his fist on an Earthling? perhaps he deemed it safe, since he was still weakened from the Kryptonite! Page 20: I wouldn't want to be the guy "responsible for this" when Supes catches up with him! That "blanket of whiteness enveloping Metropolis" puts me in mind of the similar effect in CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS! Good ol' Lois, reporting to the end! "It's getting closer, almost here." It's been fun, guys! See you in the funny pa—

Bob Kowalski
Detroit, MI

Our timestream's Emmett Vale stole Superman's matrix ship sometime between the first issue of John Byrne's MAN OF STEEL miniseries and the first issue of the current SUPERMAN series. He's how Metallo got his first body and his original Kryptonite power source. That satisfy you, Bob? And get in touch to let us know you're okay—sounds like Starro got you at the end there.

*****

Dear Mike and Chris:

I am not being cynical, but it seems Zero Month is costing you. Not in terms of audience—I'm sure you're attracting the temporary curiosity of many readers and snagging a few new ones in the process. But in lost advertising revenue, you have to be taking a

ACTION COMICS #703

whacking. The last several pages of a DC comic such as ACTION #703 are usually taken up with a page of a story and a letter column. To leave them blank for effect was a risk. Surely the temptation to fill them with *something* had to nip at your publishing instinct.

But the payoff was worth it, with an ending that touched deeply. When Lois, declaring her love for Clark, faded into something worse than death, a part of me faded with her.

The comics medium is more than writing and drawing, text and visuals; it is storytelling at its finest. And, oh, what wonderful storytellers you are!

Steve Perram
Bellingham, WA

Zero Hour earned us more than it cost, Steve, if we pleased readers like you. (Couldn't you just tell we were going to say something like that?) For getting behind our decision to end all books that week with special "no-universe left" blank pages, and for doing it so eloquently, you get a Baldy!

*****

Dear Super People:

Re: ACTION #703

Going...going...gone! The DC Universe fades from existence, and with it goes Metropolis and everyone in Superman's life. The biggest complaint after Crisis was that a multitude of beloved characters, events, and stories which were part of DC history simply ceased to exist. I'm sure that everyone's main concern is that everything that happened since then will also cease to exist as a result of Zero Hour. After reading numerous articles and hearing various rumors on what will be taking place, I'm still not quite sure what will happen and how much things will change.

With regard to this issue, after the experience with his Kryptonian "parents" from another timeline, Superman should have realized it would be almost futile to send Ma and Pa Kent—or anyone else, for that matter—into an alternative reality. Even if they would have been safe there, they would have been someplace where they didn't belong. Although he meant well by trying to save the ones he loved, what he was trying to do would have gone against the natural order of things. As for Lois, she was a true reporter to the bitter end. She didn't panic. She didn't cry. She simply did what she did best, reporting the tragedy at hand and leaving a documented record of the end of the world even if no one would hear it.

I also have a question about the last page (the one with Lois on it, not the blank one). Was this page inspired by the classic film *Godzilla*? It was very reminiscent of the scene where reporter Steve Martin, played by Raymond Burr, makes a recorded account as he watches Godzilla destroy Tokyo. Even some of Lois's dialogue was similar. If it was inspired by the

film, it was a nice touch. If it wasn't ...wow! What a coincidence!

Thomas V. Accardo
Brooklyn, NY

Wow! That's probably the first time Lois Lane has been compared to Steve Martin. Oh! That Steve Martin. Well, believe it or not, it's just a coincidence. (And how similar are they? Raymond Burr doesn't say "Godzilla, I love you" just before being wiped out, does he?)

*****

Dear Re:ACTION:

I have been reading the Superman titles for two years, and this comic is one of the best ones I have ever read—from Clark rushing to save the Kents to Lois's final words, "Clark, I love you!"

Do you think you could send Superman to a world where Doomsday was not killed? Anyway, keep up the good work as always.

Joshua Lance
Hull, GA

We can't send Superman to any other timeline, Joshua, because Zero Hour destroyed all the alternative timelines. There's only one left—the one you read every week in SUPERMAN and all the other DC Universe comics. But is Doomsday even technically dead in the one true timeline? We'll see...

*****

Dear Re:ACTION:

Over the last few months, I've seen the adverts for the Zero Hour story and wondered what it was going to be about. Now that it's almost over, I've set to thinking about what the repercussions of this intriguing story will be, and this is what I've come up with.

1) Metropolis will be rebuilt and all the deaths will be reversed.

2) The same will happen to Coast City.

3) Lex Luthor will be brought back to life.

4) Adam Grant will be brought back to life.

These are only a few possibilities, but I can't help thinking it would be a bit of a cop-out if this happens. I think you should live with what you do rather than just change it.

Now on to the comic: I think the entire comic was brilliant, but the part that hit me the hardest was the last pages, which had nothing on them. It was just the feeling you get when you look out over a lake in the early morning, quiet and serene.

Adam Poole
Nr. Meopham, England

So the destruction of all time and space was to you like a quiet and serene lake? Just checking that we're talking about the same stuff here. As for the questions...

1) Yes, it was rebuilt (and look for future stories about when and how), but the Fall of Metropolis and all the death and destruction that took place in that story still happened.

2) Big no.

3) He wasn't dead before Zero Hour.

4) Nope. See SUPERMAN #98 for more on just how not alive he still is!

*****

Dear Re:ACTIONaries:

First, let me congratulate Mr. Michelinie on a job well done on ACTION #703. Everyone else did their usual fantabulous job, as well. I especially loved the way Lois's "fade-out" at the end was handled. Just one minor thing: at the bottom of page 13, you missed a superb opportunity to put in Superman's classic chain-breaking pose, which graced the covers of SUPERMAN #50–56. But I digress.

Starro the Conqueror? Hmmmf. Just goes to show you that you can never be sure you've seen the last of ANYone (or thing) around here. So when will the sand-creature from SUPERMAN #237 and SUPERMAN SPECIAL #1 make his reappearance?

I just know Dan Jurgens purposefully timed ZERO HOUR just right to hide a dreaded skip week. And you thought no one would notice. Well, since you can't destroy the entire DC Universe every three months (well, I suppose you could...) here's my solution to the perennial problem of skip weeks: fill the holes with a SUPERMAN SPECIAL, a SUPERMAN QUARTERLY if you will. You could even use it as a reason to bring back ex-Super Team members (like you did with John Byrne in this year's ACTION annual) or introduce up-and-coming talents. This way, we could get 52 whole weeks of Superman a year, and you could get the extra revenue such a book could bring in (to put it in terms the business-types understand).

On a final note (hmmmm!), when will we see Superman do another mail call? We've seen how much his mail piles up during a year; maybe if he dealt with it a little at a time and spread it out, he wouldn't have such a problem come Christmas time.

In any case, keep up the good work; I can't wait to see what you guys will come up with next!

Joel Hahn
Addison, IL

Quarterly? Hmmmm...Skip weeks? Hmmmm...Ex-members of the Super Team? Hmmmm...Extra revenue!! HMMMMM! We'll see, Joel. Or rather, you'll see!

—Chris Duffy
Guy of Tomorrow

NEXT WEEK: In MAN OF STEEL #41, Babe's bloodlust is driving her to suck the blood of those she loves, including Jimmy Olsen! Can she somehow defeat the ancient vampire who posseses her, or can Superman and the mysterious man called Lock save her in time? That's in seven, by Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove, and guest inker Klaus Janson!

IN TWO WEEKS: In SUPERMAN #97, in the midst of Metropolis's worst blizzard, a figure of mystery is infiltrating S.T.A.R. Labs—and downloading their Superman files! Is the man lurking in the shadows friend, foe, or something else? Superman wants to know, but only Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding know, and maybe they'll tell you in fourteen days!

IN THREE WEEKS: In ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #520, join writer Karl Kesel and new penciller and inker (respectively) Stuart Immonen and José Marzan Jr. for a Superman Christmas story like no other! In twenty-one days, see how a hundred thieves working together can make Superman even busier than ol' St. Nick!

IN FOUR WEEKS: In ACTION COMICS #707, Superman is determined to stop the man called Shadowdragon—and in turn Shadowdragon makes up his mind to do everything he can to bring down the Man of Steel. But what motivates this new adversary will have to wait twenty-eight days for David Michelinie, Jackson Guice, and Denis Rodier! It'll be worth it!

The small-town girl flying across our cover was pencilled and inked by Jackson Guice and colored by Suzanne Bourdages. Curtis King and his big-town crew cover-edited it.

HAVE A COMPUTER? GOT A MODEM? FREE DC COMICS ONLINE STARTER KIT—1-800-203-2600

Hooking into DC's new interactive computer service, DC Comics Online — through America Online — may not make you into a Big Kahuna surfing the waves of the Information Superhighway right off the bat, but you might be surprised. DC Universe editors and budding cyberjocks Kevin Dooley (GREEN LANTERN, AQUAMAN, OUTSIDERS) and Scott Peterson (DETECTIVE COMICS, THE BATMAN ADVENTURES, GREEN ARROW) are just two of the DC folks who are loving life on the 'net.

"Since I've been on DC Online, I've been able to answer a lot of the burning questions on fans' minds regarding the drastic changes on AQUAMAN and GREEN LANTERN," said Dooley. During his regularly scheduled Monday 7-8 PM (EST) session in "The Green Room," there is already a loyal group of readers who lie in wait for him, and to deal with the flood of questions, Kevin will be posting to a special "Green Lantern FAQs" (Frequently Asked Questions) board to answer queries about all things green.

"Before, the only way for readers to let their thoughts be heard was through the letters page or at a convention," said Dooley. "But conventions don't go to every city. Now we can talk to fans across the country instanteneously."

"It does get pretty confusing sometimes, especially when you've got fifteen different people in the chatroom," Scott Peterson added. "Ten of them are asking you Batman questions, four of them are talking to each other about the Superman books that just came out or what movies they've seen lately, and one guy's asking 'Has anyone seen my monkey?' But, hey, that's the fun of it; seeing if you can keep up is a rush. It's so quick. You come out feeling like you just went fifteen rounds and still wanna go five more."

Making DC Online the most fun place to be is Greg Ross, the Editor of Multimedia Publishing. From uploading the latest art from the newest DC comics for you to see first to staging online "conventions" where the fans get to meet other readers from around the country, Greg and his assistant Michael Leib have their hands full — and are loving every minute of it. Greg says, "Whenever you want to, just drop me a private note or post a public message. Michael and I will make sure it gets to the right people. Also, we get to see bits and pieces from every title as they roll in and pass them right along to the fans as a kind of electronic cover preview gallery and as electronic ashcans. It's getting to where I can log on at home and with the touch of a button I can show my friends the complete covers a week before they show up in the stores.

"And the events never stop! Excutive Editor Mike Carlin frequently accosts folks who drop by the chat room, and Dan Raspler, KC Carlson and others also make occasional appearances. In the auditorium, we have Dennis O'Neil, Archie Goodwin, Jerry Ordway, Mark Waid, Chuck Dixon, Garth Ennis, and more showing up in the next few months." Check out the scheduled events board on DC Online and keep an eye on the lettercolumns in your favorite books and on the DC Universe pages for news of who will be appearing next!

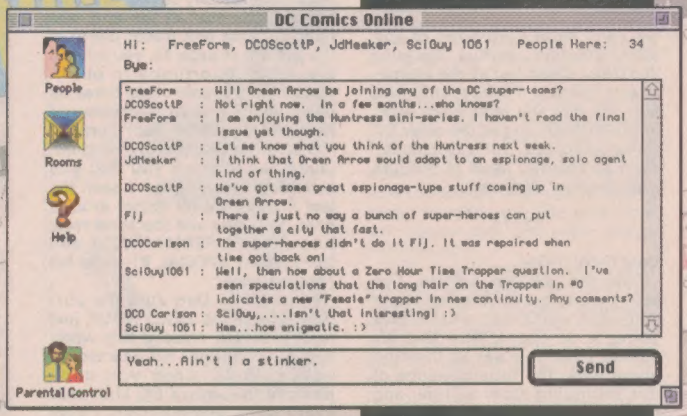
We're all buzzed about this leap and it's a thrill we want to share with you. If you have a computer (IBM compatible or Macintosh, either one) and a modem, you can log on for ten FREE hours and tour all that DC Comics Online has to offer. Just call 1-800-203-2600 to get a free starter kit from America Online (you'll need a major credit card for AOL to open your account — don't worry, you can cancel once your ten free hours are up — but trust us, you won't want to!).

So, wait no longer — DC Comics Online is bringing comics into the future, and you'll never look at your computer screen the same way again!

Folks who use computers sometimes seem to have their own language. Courtesy of GREEN LANTERN editor (and cyberpunk) Kevin Dooley, here are some computer shorthand symbols that will help you understand what some of the AOL cyberjocks are chatting about:

CYBER-SYMBOLS (read sideways!):

:)	smile
;)	wink
: (	frown
: P	sticking tongue out
: PPPP	raspberry
> (	mad
X (	tired/crossed eyes
: +)	clown


DC Comics Online
People
Rooms
Help
Parental Control
Hi: FreeForm, DCOScottP, JdMeeker, SciGuy 1061 People Here: 34
Bye:
FreeForm : Will Green Arrow be joining any of the DC super-teams?
DCOScottP : Not right now. In a few months...who knows?
FreeForm : I am enjoying the Huntress mini-series. I haven't read the final issue yet though.
DCOScottP : Let me know what you think of the Huntress next week.
JdMeeker : I think that Green Arrow would adapt to an espionage, solo agent kind of thing.
DCOScottP : We've got some great espionage-type stuff coming up in Green Arrow.
Fij : There is just no way a bunch of super-heroes can put together a city that fast.
DCOCarlson : The super-heroes didn't do it Fij. It was repaired when time got back on!
SciGuy1061 : Well, then how about a Zero Hour Time Trapper question. I've seen speculations that the long hair on the Trapper in #0 indicates a new "Fessie" trapper in new continuity. Any comments?
DCO Carlson : SciGuy,....isn't that interesting! :)
SciGuy 1061 : Hmm...how enigmatic. :)
Yeah...Ain't I a stinker.
Send

CYBER-SHORTHAND:

LOL	Laughing Out Loud
ROTFLOL	Rolling On The Floor Laughing Out Loud
<---	me/pointing at self (example: <---thrilled)
(((name)))	hug
JJ	Just Joking
@	sarcasm
brb	Be Right Back
<g>	grin
<G>	big grin
???	questions
IMO	In My Opinion
IMHO	In My Humble Opinion
CYA	see you (SEE YA) goodbye
IOH	I'm Outta Here

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OVERREACTING?

NO I'M NOT, IT'S **HUGE**. IT'S UGLY. IT'S THE HUGEST UGLIEST ZIT ANYBODY'S EVER HAD. AND TO BLAST IT INTO THE NEXT SOLAR SYSTEM IS GOING TO TAKE SOMETHING WICKED. SOMETHING POWERFUL. **SOMETHING** THAT DOESN'T JUST DEEP CLEAN BUT HAS MORE KILLER STUFF IN IT THAN THE NUMBER ONE PAD TO ZAP ZITS. AND THAT SOMETHING IS THIS **RIGHTEOUS** LITTLE PAD FROM **CLEARASIL®**.

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